



Brownfields Job Training and Development Demonstration Pilot

The Office of Applied Innovations, Riverdale, IL

Outreach and Special Projects Staff (5105)

Quick Reference Fact Sheet

EPA's Brownfields Economic Redevelopment Initiative is designed to empower states, communities, and other stakeholders in economic redevelopment to work together in a timely manner to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields. A brownfield is a site, or portion thereof, that has actual or perceived contamination and an active potential for redevelopment or reuse. EPA is funding: assessment demonstration pilot programs (each funded up to \$200,000 over two years), to assess brownfields sites and to test cleanup and redevelopment models; job training pilot programs (each funded up to \$200,000 over two years), to provide training for residents of communities affected by brownfields to facilitate cleanup of brownfields sites and prepare trainees for future employment in the environmental field; and, cleanup revolving loan fund programs (each funded up to \$1,000,000 over five years) to capitalize loan funds to make loans for the environmental cleanup of brownfields. These pilot programs are intended to provide EPA, states, tribes, municipalities, and communities with useful information and strategies as they continue to seek new methods to promote a unified approach to site assessment, environmental cleanup, and redevelopment.

BACKGROUND

EPA has selected the Office of Applied Innovations, Chicago, for a Brownfields Job Training and Development Demonstration Pilot. The Office of Applied Innovations' assessment pilot partner is the Village of Riverdale. Riverdale (population 14,000) is located just south of Chicago. More than three-quarters of Riverdale residents are minorities, primarily African Americans. The unemployment rate among Village residents is 20%.

The Job Training Pilot will focus on the Village of Riverdale, which is in the process of investigating and prioritizing more than 200 brownfields sites. Brownfields redevelopment and economic renewal activities are expected to create job opportunities in Riverdale and surrounding communities. The potential for redevelopment is strong due in large part to an excellent existing transportation infrastructure. Local environmental contractors have expressed interest in hiring local residents trained as environmental technicians to participate in new redevelopment opportunities.

PILOT SNAPSHOT



Riverdale, Illinois

Date of Announcement:
December 2000

Amount: \$200,000

Profile: The Pilot will train 90 students as environmental technicians. Students will be recruited from the Village of Riverdale and surrounding communities, which are home to hundreds of brownfields and which are taking advantage of the excellent transportation infrastructure to stimulate brownfields redevelopment activities.

Contacts:

The Office of Applied Innovations (312) 362-6022 Regional Brownfields Team
U.S. EPA - Region 5
(312) 353-2000

Visit the EPA Region 5 Brownfields web site at:
<http://www.epa.gov/R5Brownfields/>

For further information, including specific Pilot contacts, additional Pilot information, brownfields news and events, and publications and links, visit the EPA Brownfields web site at:
<http://www.epa.gov/brownfields/>

TRAINING OBJECTIVES

The Office of Applied Innovations plans to train 90 students, achieve a 70% placement rate, and support career placement of graduates for one year after the training is completed. Students will be recruited from among residents of Riverdale and surrounding communities. The 480-hour Pilot training program will consist of HAZWOPER training, underground storage tank removal, lead and asbestos abatement, confined space entry, and training in the use of innovative assessment technologies, such as indirect heat volatilization/rotary kiln treatment, steam injection system, and thermal desorption.

The training efforts of the Office of Applied Innovations will be supported by organizations such as the Village of Riverdale, WPI-Virginia Polytechnic Institute, the Riverdale Community Resource Center, African American Contractors Association, Heritage Community Bank, and two private environmental consulting companies. A project advisory council will meet quarterly to provide technical assistance and evaluate all aspects of the program. A career week will be conducted at the end of the training program to enhance placement opportunities.

ACTIVITIES

Activities planned as part of this Pilot include:

- Conducting outreach to recruit residents of Riverdale and surrounding communities;
- Conducting training for entry-level positions as brownfields technicians, including courses in the use of innovative assessment and cleanup technologies; and
- Supporting career placement of students for one year after the job training is completed.

The cooperative agreement for this Pilot has not yet been negotiated; therefore, activities described in this fact sheet are subject to change.